

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

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CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01

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OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 SAJ-01 EUR-12

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R 250833Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3924

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

FBIS OKINAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CH US

SUBJ: US IMPERIALISM SCORED IN NEW PRC FILM

REF: HONG KONG 1605

SUMMARY: THE NEW PRC MOVIE "TRAILBLAZERS", SPECIALLY
RELEASED FOR SPRING FESTIVAL THIS MONTH AND NOW PLAYING
AT THEATRES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, DEPICTS US IMPERIAL-
ISM IN THE PERSON OF A DESPICABLE US ENGINEER WHO WORKS
WITH THE KMT OVERLORDS, DISPARAGES CHINA'S OIL POTENTIAL,
TRIES TO TAKE TECHNICAL DATA AND PLANS AWAY WITH HIM
WHEN HE FLEES, AND THREATENS TO HAVE CHINA BLOCKADED TO
PREVENT HER DEVELOPMENT. ALTHOUGH NCNA PRESENTLY APPEARS
SENSITIVE ABOUT PURVEYING SUCH ANTI-US SIGNALS ABROAD
(REFTEL), THE THEMES ARE DEFINITELY THERE IN THE MOVIE
AS IT WAS BEING SHOWN IN A FULLY-PACKED SHANGHAI
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THEATRE LAST WEEK. END SUMMARY.

1. WHILE IN SHANGHAI LAST WEEK CONGENOFF (STARBIRD) ASKED TO SEE THE NEW MOVIE, "TRAILBLAZERS," ("CHUANG YEH", STC 0482/2814) AND WAS ABLE TO DO SO ON FEBRUARY 19 IN THE COMPANY OF A CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE-INTERPRETER. THIS FILM IS NEWLY PRODUCED AND WAS SPECIALLY RELEASED FOR SPRING FESTIVAL (CHINESE NEW YEAR) THIS YEAR. IT IS PLAYING ON TV AND AT THEATRES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE THEATRE IN SHANGHAI HAD A FULL HOUSE. (CONGENOFF HAD SEEN SNATCHES OF THE FILM ON TV IN PEKING, WAS TOLD IT WAS ON TV IN SHANGHAI, AND SAW IT ADVERTISED ON BILLBOARDS AT THEATRES IN BOTH THOSE CITIES AND IN KWANGCHOW.)

2. THIS THE FILM THAT NCNA ENGLISH BEGAN TO DESCRIBE AND THEN BROKE OFF (SEE REFTEL). CONGEN'S EARLIER SPECULATION THAT NCNA WAS SENSITIVE ABOUT THE REFERENCES TO "US IMPERIALISM" RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM CONGENOFF'S VIEWING OF THE WHOLE FILM. HIS RECOLLECTIONS, BASED ON A ONE-TIME VIEWING FOLLOW.

3. "TRAILBLAZERS" OPENS ON THE VENUE OF LIBERATION WITH WORKERS AT AN OLD OILFIELD RISING UP AGAINST THE KMT AND THEIR AMERICAN ADVISERS WHO ARE PLOTTING TOGETHER TO DESTROY THE OILFIELD RATHER THAN LET IT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ADVANCING PLA. THE AMERICAN ENGINEER IS A DESPICABLE SORT WHO BELITS "OLD GRANDDAD", DISPARAGES CHINA'S OIL POTENTIAL ON THE BASIS OF FOREIGN STUDIES, TRIES TO ENTICE THE CHIEF CHINESE ENGINEER TO FLEE TO THE US BY CLAIMING THERE IS NOT FUTURE IN THE CHINESE OIL INDUSTRY, AND DEMANDS THAT HE, THE AMERICAN, BE GIVEN THE TECHNICAL DATA AND PLANS THAT HE AND THE CHINESE ENGINEER HAD DEVELOPED SO THAT HE CAN TAKE THEM AWAY WITH HIM AND CRIPPLE FURTHER OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIELD.

4. THE HERO, CHON TING-SHAN, WAS SENT TO THE HEAD-QUARTERS TO PREVENT THE CHINESE ENGINEER FROM FLEEING AND TO SAFEGUARD THE IMPORTANT PAPERS, AND HE OVERHEARS PART OF THE CONVERSATION DESCRIBED ABOVE. WHEN THE

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AMERICAN ENGINEER DEMANDS THE PAPERS AND STARTS BACK INTO THE OFFICE TO GET THEM, CHOU BECOMES INCENSED. IN A SCENE THAT BROUGHT FORTH BOTH LAUGHTER AND GRUNTS OF APPROVAL FROM A SHANGHAI AUDIENCE, CHOU GRABS A JERRY CAN OF WATER AND DOUSES THE AMERICAN ENGINEER WITH IT, GLARING FIRECELY ALL THE WHILE. NOW THOROUGHLY DRENCHED, THE AMERICAN ENGINEER COWERS UNDER CHOU'S WITHERING GAZE AND FLEES TO HIS CAR VOWING A BLOCAD

OF CHINA IN ORDER TO STUNT HER GROWTH.

5. NEVER AGAIN IN THE FILM IS "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM"
SO DRAMATICALLY PRESENTED. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THROUGHOUT
THE FILM, HOWEVER, IT IS VERBALLY LINKED WITH SOVIET
IMPERIALISM AS THE OUTSIDE ENEMIES, BUT THE LATTER
BECOME THE MAIN VILLAIN AS THAT SUPPOSED FRIEND TAKES
ADVANTAGE OF CHINA'S TIME OF CALAMITIES TO TEAR UP
CONTRACTS, WITHDRAW TECHNICIANS AND CUT OFF THE SUPPLY
OF OIL. IT IS SAID ON ONCE OCCASION THAT BOTH SUPPOSED
FRIENDS AND ENEMIES (THE US) ARE BLOCKADING CHINA.
CROSS

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